

9-2001



Our 56th Year

Zero Beat



A Publication of the Hampden County Radio Association

<http://www.hcra.org>

Meetings Held at: Feeding Hills Congregational Church
21 North Westfield Street
Feeding Hills, MA

September, 2001



Welcome back to HCRA !!!

Be sure to join us, Friday, September 7th, 2001 for our first meeting after the summer break.

September's Special Speaker

Mike Raisbeck, K1TWF

Vice Director of the ARRL New England Division to speak about current happenings in Ham Radio.

Also, HCRA near-future special events will be discussed.

General Meeting Starts at 7:30 PM

All are Welcome

This issue of Zero Beat was also sent to the general membership of the HCRA via e-mail - NOW IN COLOR!

If you would like to be included in our monthly e-mailings, see page 5 for details.

For Up-To-Date HCRA News and Information, remember to visit the HCRA Club Website

<http://www.hcra.org>

If you haven't been there TODAY, then it has probably changed since the last time you visited!

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President's

Corner

Welcome Back!

The summer is just about over, I hope yours was as enjoyable and fun as mine! But maybe not quite as busy! I don't know where the time goes, but the plan of having a new HF antenna up at the shack before September has failed yet again. Guess it's something to do with making a decision (not)!

Mike Raisbeck, K1TWF

September Guest Speaker

To kick off our 2001/2002 season, the HCRA is proud to have Mike Raisbeck, K1TWF for our September meeting. Mike will be speaking on the forces challenging our hobby - CC&R's, spectrum pressure, and competition for mind share among our youth. This is a **MUST ATTEND** meeting for anyone that's concerned about where ham radio will end up in future years.

An active member of the ARRL and a Volunteer Counsel, Raisbeck is also a past president of the Billerica Amateur Radio Society. Mike was first licensed in 1961. He and his wife Susan, WN1V, live in Chelmsford, MA with their sons, Andrew, KB1DEF, and Daniel, KB1DFJ.

Mike is Vice Director of the ARRL's New England Division, serving along with Tom Frenaye, K1KI to both expand the amateur radio hobby and protect our present frequency allocations.

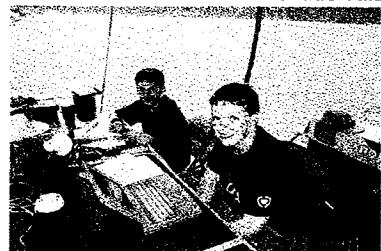
Mark your calendar now so you don't miss this interesting meeting.

Renewal Time

In keeping with tradition, now is the time to renew for the HCRA's 2001/2002 season. Either use the handy form included with this month's ZeroBeat, download a copy from the web page, or even better, come to the September meeting, meet the whole gang, enjoy Mike's presentation, and get a chance to win a raffle prize. Either way, it's very important you renew early so you don't miss out on any of the HCRA activities scheduled throughout the year. There will be no increase in dues this year, full membership is \$15, and additional family members are free.

<http://www.hcra.org>

In case you don't recognize the URL above, that's the HCRA's own web page and it should at least be in your "favorites" list if not your home page. A lot of effort from Larry, N1URE with help from Steve, KB1GHC has produced a web page that is good looking, informative and up to date. It's a great resource that everyone in the with internet access should make use of this valuable resource.



Steve, KB1GHC (left), and John, KB1FTX, work 40m Phone

Field Day

I'm sure there will be FD info elsewhere in this edition of ZeroBeat, but I must make just a few comments. FD 2001 for HCRA was an outstanding success! The location was fantastic, Murphy stayed away for a good part of the time, and it only rained for a little while!



September Guest Speaker
Mike Raisbeck—K1TWF

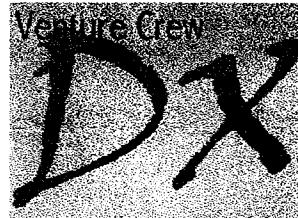
The food was good thanks to Fay, Betty and Norm, adequate power and antenna erection was supplied by Dave (KB1FRH), Kate (KB1GDG), and John (KB1FTX), and EVERYONE had a great time. Chet (W1HGJ) did a super ATV demonstration that really captured the attention of the younger hams and the Springfield newspaper reporters. We ended up with a outstanding newspaper article in

the Sunday Republican. The site worked out so well, with kitchen facilities, bathrooms with running water and sandy soil that dried right up after the rain we have already reserved it for next year. Mark you calendar now for June 22 and 23 so you don't miss out.

Oh yeah, the score... We ran 5A, scored 6472 points and had a great time doing it. I'm sure we will set a higher point goal for next year, but it will be almost impossible to beat the fun factor!

A special thanks to John, Kx1x, for both his efforts and unbridled enthusiasm throughout the whole activity

Venture Crew DX (510)



The HCRA has moved into new territory. I don't know if you remember, but last year we decided to sponsor a BSA Venture Crew. At the last board meeting, John, Kx1x, was proud to announce the crew is up and running. Presently they have nine Venture members and nine adult members. Andy, KB1FVL is acting president and

attended the board meeting. The crew will be meeting an hour before the regular club meetings. Also, the crew will be helping out with Big-E day and the Basketball Hall of Fame special event station. This is an exciting moment for HCRA. At a time when you hear everyone lamenting about the lack of youth in the hobby and how the internet is much more attractive, along comes the crew to prove it isn't so! Let's all welcome the crew and make every effort to help them expand their enjoyment of the hobby. The HCRA board also congratulates John for all his efforts in bringing this project to fruition.

Big-E Day, September 19th.

The HCRA will be staffing the booth at the Big-E this year on September 19th. Norm, W1BMK has graciously agreed to coordinate the staffing again this year. He will need a few volunteers to work in the booth from 10AM to 10 PM on the 19th. We expect a great set-up this year. HF, VHF and perhaps ATV will be demonstrated to the public during the day. If you would like to help out, give Norm a call at 413-567-5782 or drop him an email at w1bmk@arrl.net. In addition to the fun of working the booth, you get free admission to the fair and there is usually plenty of time to roam the buildings and of course visit the food court. Don't forget your HCRA name badge!

Mailing List

Take advantage of the HCRA mailing list and keep in touch with all your friends, see what's happening at HCRA and maybe find or sell some treasures! It's easy, just visit our web page for the details.

I look forward to seeing everyone on Friday, September 7th.

'73...Jim, KK1W



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HCRA CONTACTS

Questions, Comments, and Suggestions Can Be Directed To:

HCRA OFFICERS

President	Jim Mullen, KK1W	(413) 245-3228	jmullen@rockys.com
Vice-President	Jordan Koltz, W1JK	(413) 532-3729	w1jk@earthlink.net
Treasurer	Greg Stoddard, N1AEH	(860) 668-5143	gstoddard@rcn.com
Secretary	Dave Isham, KB1MU	(413) 596-6605	kb1mu@charter.net

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At Large	Larry Krainson, WB1DBY	(413) 567-3505	wb1dby@arrl.net
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Newsletter	John Pise, Kx1x	(413) 532-7474	kx1x@arrl.net
Technical	Stan Bates, N1INB		

STATION TRUSTEES

W1NY Trustee	Don Johnson, W1UPH	(413) 566-3560 (let it ring)	wluph2@juno.com
WB1HOF Trustee	Jim Mullen, KK1W	(413) 245-3228	jmullen@rockys.com

EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

Emerg Coord	Dave Isham, KB1MU	(413) 596-6605	kb1mu@charter.net
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BSA VENTURE CREW 510

Youth President (Acting)	Andy Jensen, KB1FVL		andypj2@aol.com
Adult Advisor	John Pise, Kx1x	(413) 532-7474	kx1x@arrl.net
Adult Advisor	Dan Shea, N1OE		WBEagle87@aol.com

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DX Clips

De Jordy, W1JK



I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer. It is now time to contemplate the Fall and the increase in DX activity it spawns.

I was recently asked a few questions about the Solar Flux indexes that appear on the DX packet clusters, WWV, and various Internet sites. I am aware that some of you are quite knowledgeable on this subject, but others new to DX and the Hobby will, hopefully, derive some benefit.

Propagation is tied to the number of sunspots on the Sun's surface, because the areas around these spots emit large amounts of ionizing radiation. Increased sunspots correlate closely with better worldwide radio propagation on HF. Solar indices include the 10.7CM solar flux index (SFI), Boulder A index and Boulder K index. Solar flux at 10.7CM is essentially a measurement of the thermal radiation of the Sun and contributes nothing to ionizing the Ionosphere. Solar Flux is measured at several points on the Earth. The twelve month average of 10.7CM solar flux correlates very well with the twelve month running average of the sunspot number, called the smoothed sunspot number (SSN). Daily SFI numbers vary widely during the entire cycle.

The A index is an averaged quantitative measure of geomagnetic activity derived from a series of actual measurements. The Boulder A index in WWV announcements is linear and ranges from 0 to 400. It is the 24 hour A index derived from eight 3 hour K indices recorded at Boulder, Colorado (the home of WWV). The K index is logarithmic in nature and ranges from 0 to 9. It results from 3-hourly Magnetometer measurements comparing the current geomagnetic field intensity and orientation to what it would have been under geomagnetic quiet conditions. So, you see...solar storms, flares, etc. have an adverse effect on propagation. The A index relates to geomagnetic stability. A one point change in the K index is quite significant. K index readings below 3 generally mean good stable conditions, and above 3 can mean high absorption of radio waves. Generally for long distance HF, the rule of thumb is the higher the SFI and the lower the A and K indices the better. The A index should be under 14 and the solar activity low to moderate. If the A index drops under 7 for a few days in a row and the SFI is up, watch for some really exciting intercontinental conditions.

You can get this info on WWV or WWVH or by calling 303-497-3235. Geophysical alerts are broadcast over WWV at 18 minutes after the hour and from WWVH at 45 minutes after the hour. They operate on 5, 10, and 15 MHZ with 10 KW output. WWV radiates 2500 W on 2.5 MHZ and 20 MHZ, and WWVH radiates 5 KW on 2.5 MHZ. This multiple - frequency arrangement makes it likely that at least one frequency will be useable at all times.

You can also get this info on the DX packet clusters...just type in the command "SH/WWV". There are many websites that Hyperlink to URL's that have updated data also.

Please note that the K index reported on WWV is only updated every 3 hours, and the A and SFI values are usually updated once a day at 21 hours UTC. Also, the A index reported at 21 hrs UTC is "not current". It is calculated from the last eight K index readings in Boulder. As such, it contains data that is 24 hours old. The following are tables of K and A indices:

K0 = inactive	K5 = minor storm
K1 = very quiet	K6 = major storm
K2 = quiet	K7 = severe storm
K3 = unsettled	K8 = very severe storm
K4 = active	K9 = extremely severe storm
A0 - A7 = quiet	A50 - A99 = major storm
A8 - A15 = unsettled	A100 - A400 = severe storm
A16 - A29 = active	
A30 - A49 = minor storm	

73's...Jordy - W1JK

LOOK FOR:

Manaco - 3A: Patrice , F5RBB QRV as 3A/F5RBB Aug 25 to Sept 3.

Cape Verde - D4: Xara , CT1EKF QRV signing D44TD for 40 days beginning Aug 25.

Ethiopia - ET: Silvio , IV3TRK QRV as 9E1S until Sept 4 , mostly CW.

Chad - TT: Chris , TT8DX QRV from Aug 28 for 1 year. QSL via F5OGL.

Antarctica : Mark , VK4KMT QRV signing VKOKMT from Australian Davis base mostly on 14180 or 18120 from 0400 - 1000 Z. QSL via VK4KMT.

Johnston Atoll - KH3: A really rare one. Get it!! Dan KH6UW and group there from Sept 11 - 18, 160 - 6M including WARC bands using call sign K3J. QSL via AH6HN.



Join us each week on the HCRA 10m Net!

Join NCS, Tom Doyle (n1muv), each Monday night at 7:30 PM (local) on 28.375 Mhz (+/- QRM)

Get the latest local word, join good friends, take part in good conversation each week!!!

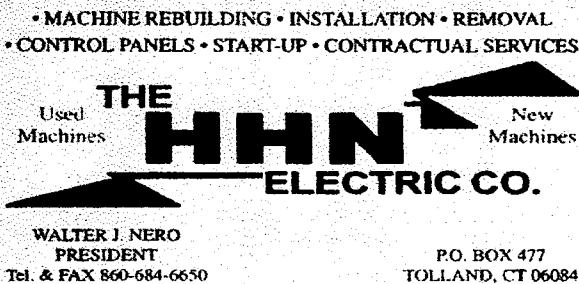
Anyone (with HF privs) can join in, don't be shy!!!

Get Your *Zero Beat* Electronically each month
 HCRA members can receive their monthly club newsletter in any or all of three ways!

- 1) First Class Mail, just like you always have. This costs HCRA approximately 75 cents per copy. This is one of the benefits of your membership with HCRA.
- 2) E-mail. If you would like to get on our e-mail list, just write eZB@hcra.org from the account that you wish to receive your copy from, and request that you join our list. HCRA respects your privacy and will not under any circumstances give your e-mail address to ANYONE.
- 3) WWW.HCRA.ORG. Our new web site carries the latest copies of *Zero Beat*. Just click and read.

NOTE 1: You will need Adobe Acrobat ® installed on your computer to read electronic copies of *Zero Beat*. Just click the button on the WWW.HCRA.ORG website, and follow the directions to get your FREE copy of Adobe Acrobat ®.

NOTE 2: There is a cost savings to the HCRA if you receive your *Zero Beat* electronically only. If you prefer to NOT receive your newsletter by First Class Mail, please contact John, KXIX, Dave, KB1MU, or Jim, WA1ZUH to be added to the eZB only list.



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What's Happening???
On The Air

Mon., Tues, Thur, Fri	19:00	National Traffic System (NTS) Net	146.94
Sundays	08:45	Western Mass Emergency Net	146.94
Mondays	19:30	HCRA 10m Net	28.375
Wednesdays	19:30	MTARA Info net	146.94 and 147.000 (link)
	20:00	MTARA Swap net	
	20:30	MTARA Tech net	
Thursdays	21:00	Weather Net (ncs K1PAI Roger)	1 st Week of the Month 147.09 Every other week 147.000

Club Meetings & Testing Sessions

1 st Friday of the month	19:30	HCRA Club Meeting	Feeding Hills Congregational Church 21 N. Westfield St., Feeding Hills
3 rd Friday of the month	19:30	MTARA Club meeting	Red Cross building 506 Cottage St, SPFLD, MA
4 th Friday of the month	18:00	MTARA License Exams	Holyoke Hospital Auditorium Beech St., Holyoke
4 th Sunday of the month	19:00	NOBARC club meeting	Pittsfield MA (146.91 for talk-in)

Please forward additions and suggestions to: Stan Bates, n1linb seb@wca.com

(All times Local)

HCRA's new adVENTURE, Crew 510

John J. Pise, Jr. Kx1x, Crew Advisor

Visit Crew DX's new website: <http://www.qsl.net/crewdx>

As, Jim, KK1W, alluded to in his President's Corner this month, there is a perception that today's youth are not interested in our hobby. The Internet, with its hype, ease of use, and high availability, is being blamed for drawing the younger generation away from the wires, the technical know-how, a license required, and generally less available and more expensive, radio hobby.

I write to you today, to tell you that Jim is RIGHT. There is a PERCEPTION, but it can't be further from the truth. It has been my experience that today's youth are VERY interested in our hobby, but most have not been exposed to it, or believe it to be nothing more than their dad's CB or a stronger FRS radio. The NEW Venture Crew 510 will prove that the youth ARE interested.

So you can understand the chain of events preceding the Crew's incorporation, here is a short history.

It was just a casual conversation a few years back between Doug Root, KA2MST, who was the aquatics director at the time, and Biff Simpson, AA1DI, with his radio toys at Summer Camp, that inspired the request and subsequent authorization to take a small building, once used as a greenhouse, and then a troop shower, and convert it into what is now the Ham Shack at Moses. Since then, countless volunteers have brought electricity, furniture, radios, and a tri-bander beam up a 50' tower, and have developed a working ham-club house! The entire operation has cost the Pioneer Valley Council of the BSA exactly ZERO dollars (except for the cost of the power used).

Three years ago, I began offering the Radio Merit Badge during Boy Scout summer camp at the Horace A. Moses Scout reservation, in cooperation with the program director and with the strong support of Doug, now the camp director. In that time, Biff and I have been invited to give demonstrations at various events up at the camp, most notable, an annual event called Webelos Woods where we show 300 to 400 nine and ten year old cub scouts this fine hobby. One of the strongest points that we make at each demonstration is that this is something that the youth can do for themselves!!! For most, it was amazing that they, 10, 11, 12 year olds could earn their ticket, and be accepted as equals in the ham community.

In the three years, over 120 scouts have passed the merit badge, but there's more! At last year's fall camporee, which was held on the Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) weekend, I was proud to introduce some of my staff, three new licensed hams (KB1FTX, KB1FSU, and KB1FFJ), all scouts, who had first been exposed to Ham Radio at the camp. On that day, two other scouts were able to take the Technician test when the VE team came up to the camp, one earned his ticket that day (KB1FVL), and one earned his ticket later that month (KB1FWN, eleven years old at the time!). At the JOTA event, these scouts got along, working 2m simplex, and having a blast doing it. Someone suggested to me to have some kind of a "scout/ham club", and the wheels started turning.

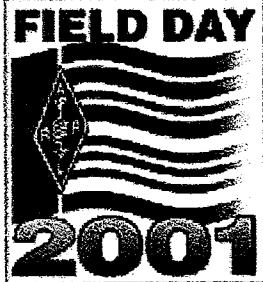
When I approached the HCRA board of directors for their support in starting a new BSA Venture Crew, I was a little apprehensive, thinking that in this day, added demands on time and financial resources could not be accommodated. Boy, was I wrong! The Board was VERY enthusiastic and supportive, and gave an overwhelming thumbs-up to the idea!

So, here we are, Venture Crew DX (DX is 510 in Roman Numerals). We are currently nine youth and nine adults strong, and getting stronger. Some of the events planned for the near future are working with HCRA at the Big E and Basketball Hall of Fame, a crew outing at Camp Moses for the Sweepstakes SSB Phone contest (and quite possibly a weekend, concentrated, license class), and other events of radio and public safety concern. We will be getting very interested in RACES and SkyWarn activities.

In closing, let me say that you'll be hearing a lot about Crew DX in the coming months. The youth of our new Crew are very excited to get going (and so are the Adults!!!), and we're looking forward to working with the HCRA and other ham concerns. Zero Beat will have a new regular column, written by the Crew youth President, detailing past and future events that the Crew will be interested in. Many thanks to: Andy, KB1FVL, acting Crew President, and Steve, KB1GHC, Crew Secretary and Webmaster, for their enthusiasm and help, at this critical crew startup time. Dan, N1OE, for pushing me the whole way. Jim, KK1W, for backing the proposal to the HCRA board. Irv, W6IS, for accepting the position of Committee Chair for the new Crew DX. And countless others who have made this dream a reality.

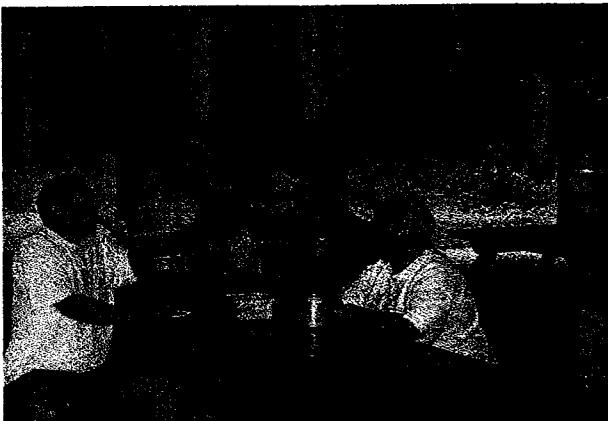
Yours In Scouting, '73, de Kx1x

Venturing is a youth development program of the Boy Scouts of America for young men and women who are 14 (and have completed the eighth grade) through 20 years of age. Venturing's purpose is to provide positive experiences to help young people mature and to prepare them to become responsible and caring adults. Venturing is based on a unique and dynamic relationship between youth, adult leaders, and organizations in their communities. Local community organizations establish a Venturing crew by matching their people and program resources to the interests of young people in the community. The result is a program of exciting and meaningful activities that helps youth pursue their special interests, grow, develop leadership skills, and become good citizens.

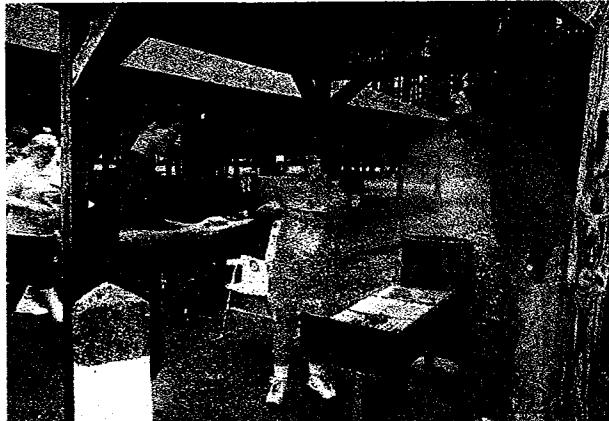


Pictures from FIELD DAY, 2001 the W1INY way

Hampden County Radio Association
At Dufresne Park, Rte 202, Granby, MA



Earl, KD1UU, Jake, Norm, W1BMK, Larry, WB1DBY, and Jim, KK1W enjoy a break in front of a big Fan of Field Day



Field Day food for Andy, KB1FVL, served up by Faye as Chet, W1HGJ looks on.



Mike, KB1FWN, and John, KB1FTX operate from the 10m Technician (N1INB) tent.



40m Phone for Larry, K1ILZ, as Dave, KB1MU tries to figure out the logging software.



El Presidente, Jim, KK1W, at 40m CW keyboard. What has happened to the days of the straight key?



Betty, KB1CPZ, Pat, N1CET, Larry, K1ILZ, and Norm, W1BMK

HCRA Board of directors Meeting – June 8, 2001

Held at Elizabeth Buller's home

Present: Jim KKIW, Jorty W1JK, Greg N1AEH, Dave KB1MU, Irv W6IS, Norm W1BMK, Stan NIINB, John Kx1x, Larry WB1DBY, and Andy KB1FVL.

Member Reports:

Vice President Raffle prize for the auction was discussed. The board arrived at no real solution. It was decided that the prize should be less than \$500.00 in value. It was agreed to continue with \$50.00 to \$75.00 for standard monthly raffle.

During the past year, the profits from the monthly raffles paid for the use of the meeting hall.

Treasurer: Current balance is \$2707.00. This is up from the \$1370.00 balance at the start of last year. This balance does include \$305.00 excess from the bus trip. These funds will be donated to the Wireless and Steam Museum. Field day expenses were approximately \$350.00. The final tally has not yet been completed.

Secretary: A mailing list for the Sept issue of ZeroBeat has been prepared, and labels printed. For Sept we will send a hard copy of ZeroBeat to all members, as well as a few copies to prospective members. Those members who have chosen to receive the "E" version of ZeroBeat will receive both the e-mail version and a hard copy for Sept only. The new HCRA "eyeball" cards will be available at the Sept meeting.

Program: Mike Raisbeck, will speak at the September meeting. October speaker will be Maria Granville, the daughter of on the Granville brothers. The Granville brothers built the "Gee Bee" racing planes. For December we will have W1DGJ present some DX videos he has.

Membership: Norm, Stan, and Larry will work together to form a "marketing" plan to increase the HCRA membership.

Zero Beat: Jim distributed to all at the meeting a calendar for the coming year. Among other important dates, the calendar includes the deadline date for Zero Beat publication. It was mentioned that the back issue of E-ZB are taking much space on the club web page. With the activity on the web page, HCRA is using a large amount of space, and removing old issues of ZeroBeat from the Web site would reduce the space used.

Old Business:

Field Day: The board of directors wish to express their thanks to John Kx1x for a great job done with the organization of field day. Thank You John. Because not all cash has not been returned to the Treasurer, a final tally is not possible. The final cost appears to be about \$350.00. A reservation has been made for the use of the park next field day. The board agreed that the purchase of a portable tower, such as used this year would be a good idea. An attempt will be made to do this.

HCRA records: Further attempts will be made to contact Walt WA1HHN and obtain the club records he has.

New Business:

Venture Crew: The venture crew is proceeding along nicely. The crew currently consists of 9 youth members and 9 adult advisors. The crew number is 510, which in roman numerals is DX. The crew meetings will be held at each club meeting, starting at 6:00 PM. The crew president will be invited to all Board of Directors meetings. This will insure communications between the Club and the Crew. The crew will be participating in the Nov Sweepstakes, the Big-E, the JOTA, and the Basketball hall of Fame Special event station.

Big-E Sept 19th will be HCRA day at the Big-E. Club members will man the Amateur radio booth for the day. In addition to club members, the venture crew will also participate. Norm W1BMK will coordinate admissions with members and the booth organizers.

Basketball Hall of Fame Special events station: Norm WBMK will also coordinate this event. The operation will be on Sat and Sun Oct 6/7. Operations will be from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Help will also be needed during the week prior and after for erection and removal of the antennas,

Respectfully submitted by Dave Isham KB1MU.

HCRA HISTORY INFO WANTED

Larry, WB1DBY, is trying to put together a "history" of HCRA. He is in need of any history that you may have: founding members, dates, old activities, pictures, old Zero Beat, any old history items. If you have any information that you feel would be of use, please contact WB1DBY, Larry Krainson, 100 Kenmore Drive, Longmeadow, MA 01106-2759 or wb1dbv@arrl.net



HAMPDEN COUNTY RADIO ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 562
Agawam, MA 01001



APPLICATION FOR HAMPCDEN COUNTY RADIO ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

Personal Information:

NAME: _____ CALLSIGN: _____

ADDRESS: _____ LICENSE CLASS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE: Home (____) ____ - ____

Work (____) ____ - ____ - ____ ext

E-mail: _____ @ _____ BIRTHDATE: ____ / ____ / ____

Membership Information:

Type of application: New Renewal

Class of application: Regular Family

Donations are tax deductible!
Thanks!

Dues are \$15.00/year for regular membership.
Additional family members are free.

Annual Dues: \$ 15.00

Donation: \$ ____ .00

Total: \$ ____ .00

How would you like to receive "ZeroBeat"?
 US Mail e-mail Both

Amateur Radio Interests:

Are you an ARRL member? Yes No

Are you a Volunteer Examiner? Yes No



Please check any and all interests that apply:

HF VHF UHF Repeaters Satellite Digital Modes DX

Contests Field Day Technical/Construction

Emergency Communication Training Assist with club functions

The next meeting of the
Hampden County Radio Association
Will be on Friday

Semptember 7th, 2001

At 7:30 p.m. at the
Feeding Hills Congregational Church
Doors open at 7:00 PM

Hope to see you there!

In case of inclement weather, tune to TV Channels 22 or 40,
or the 146.94 repeater.

Meeting cancellation information will be given out by 6:00 PM.

HCRA
P.O. Box 562
Agawam, Massachusetts
01001

*Friday, September 7th, 2001
Welcome back to HCRA
Mike Raisbeck, K1TWF
ARRL NE Div. Vice Director
Meeting Starts at 7:30 PM*



PLEASE HAND CANCEL

Expires: 8/31/1999